

MEETING AW.06:1011  
DATE 20:10:10

## South Somerset District Council

**Draft Minutes** of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at the Shrubbery Hotel, Station Road, Ilminster on **Wednesday, 20th October 2010**.

(5.30 p.m. – 6.40 p.m.)

### Present:

**Members:** Kim Turner (in the Chair)

David Bulmer	Dan Shortland
Geoff Clarke	Angie Singleton
Carol Goodall	Andrew Turpin
Robin Munday	Linda Vjeh (until 6.30 p.m.)
Ric Pallister	Martin Wale
Ros Roderigo	

### Officers:

Andrew Gillespie	Area Development Manager (West)
Zoë Harris	Community Regeneration Officer (West)
Andrew Blackburn	Committee Administrator

**(Note:** Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.)

### 61. Minutes (Agenda item 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th September 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

### 62. Apologies for Absence (Agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Simon Bending, Michael Best, Jenny Kenton and Nigel Mermagen and County Councillor John Dyke.

### 63. Declarations of Interest (Agenda item 3)

Cllr. Carol Goodall declared her personal interest in agenda item 7 regarding the progress of Ilminster Forum and the Community Plan as she was the Chairman of Ilminster Forum. As the item was for information and noting only it was not considered that the interest was prejudicial.

During the presentations that took place as part of agenda item 6, Cllr. Carol Goodall declared her personal interest in respect of the presentation regarding the Ilminster Town Council Sports Initiative as she was a member of the Ilminster Sports Initiative Steering Group. As the item was for information and noting only it was not considered that the interest was prejudicial.

Cllr. Kim Turner declared her personal interest in agenda item 7 regarding the progress of Ilminster Forum and the Community Plan as she had been appointed by the District Council to serve on that organisation. As the item was for information and noting only it was not considered that the interest was prejudicial.

During the presentations that took place as part of agenda item 6, Cllr. Kim Turner declared her personal interest in respect of the presentation regarding the Ilminster Town Council Sports Initiative as she served as a councillor on the Town Council and was a member of the Ilminster Sports Initiative Steering Group. As the item was for information and noting only it was not considered that the interest was prejudicial.

During the presentations that took place as part of agenda item 6, Cllr. Linda Vjeh declared her personal interest in respect of the presentation regarding the Ilminster Town Council Sports Initiative as she served as a councillor on the Town Council. As the item was for information and noting only it was not considered that the interest was prejudicial.

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## **64. Public Question Time (Agenda item 4)**

No questions or comments were raised by members of the public or parish/town councils.

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## **65. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda item 5)**

The Chairman reminded members about the informal workshop regarding Crewkerne Key Site, which had been arranged to take place on Friday, 22nd October 2010.

The Chairman also reminded members that the Area West Planning Tour would be taking place on Monday, 1st November 2010.

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## **66. Presentation from Opportunity Ilminster 2009 Winners (Agenda item 6)**

The Chairman referred to the Opportunity Ilminster events when grants were awarded to various community groups and introduced representatives from two of the successful organisations who made a short presentation giving an update on the benefits that the Council's grant funding had provided.

### **Experience Ilminster**

Randy Jeeps, representing Experience Ilminster, informed members of the details of this four day festival, which had been held for 2 years running and provided the residents of Ilminster and surrounding area with an enjoyable wide ranging programme of events and activities. Reference was also made to the events raising the profile of Ilminster. She also referred to the large proportion of expenditure in organising the events that was attributed to items such as insurance, statutory notices, advertising and promotion etc. and commented that the events would not have been able to take place initially if it were not for the two grants that had been awarded. She further informed members that the Experience Ilminster event would be held again next year on the 9th-12th June 2011. In conclusion, a short film was shown of the event, which had been made by a young amateur film maker.

A member referred to the significant cost of obtaining the insurance cover that was required when organising public events and referred to the arrangements in his village where the parish council's insurance covered local community events. He suggested that it

may be worthwhile looking into whether a similar arrangement would be possible in conjunction with Ilminster Town Council.

The Chairman thanked Randy Jeeps for her presentation and for the work her group carried out in organising the four day event. She also asked her to pass on the Committee's thanks to the young person who had made the film of the event.

### **Ilminster Town Council – Sports Initiative**

Steve Fisher, Town Clerk of Ilminster, informed the Committee of the details of this ambitious project to provide a new four badminton court sized sports centre including changing rooms, function area, meeting room and bar on land owned by the Town Council at Britten's Field. He referred to the objective being to meet the demands of the current sporting clubs and to expand the range of sports provision in Ilminster. He referred to the project making a contribution to healthy living and providing a meeting place for local groups. He commented that Ilminster had increased by 40% in size but lacked the community infrastructure to go with it. He referred to the need having been demonstrated for this project by the work of the Community Forum and the Strategic Vision for Ilminster. With the aid of slides he showed the location and a plan of the site together with artist's impressions of the scheme. He indicated that the grant that was awarded had helped to move the project on by recruiting a consultant to look at the objectives and carry out a feasibility study and, in conjunction with Ilminster Town Council and the community, to develop a business plan, which had now been adopted by the Town Council. Resources were now being sought to enable the project to be realised. In response to a question, Steve Fisher informed members of the anticipated timescale for the project.

A member referred to previous Government proposals for a community infrastructure levy having been abandoned and to the possibility of a tariff system being introduced whereby developers would pay a contribution towards community infrastructure. Although this may not be in time to help this particular project he commented that it may help similar projects go forward in the future.

The Chairman thanked Steve Fisher for his presentation and commented that the Steering Group were working in partnership to deliver a project in Ilminster, which was needed by the community.

### **Horton Village Hall**

The Committee noted that the representative from Horton Village Hall had been unable to attend the meeting.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the representatives from the organisations for attending the meeting to update members on the progress with the projects.

**NOTED.**

*(Zoë Harris, Community Regeneration Officer – 01460 260423)  
(zoe.harris@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

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## **67. Progress of Ilminster Forum and the Community Plan (Agenda item 7)**

Reference was made to the agenda report, which provided members with an update on the work of Ilminster Forum and the progression of projects identified in the Ilminster Community Plan.

Cllr. Carol Goodall, Chairman of Ilminster Forum, gave a presentation during which she informed the Committee that the aims of Ilminster Forum were set out in the Community Plan although the main one was working in partnership with local organisations and funders. She referred to the projects that had been undertaken including leaflets giving details of walks in and around Ilminster, a transport information booklet, a heritage trail leaflet and working with the Chamber of Commerce to provide a business noticeboard in the Tesco car park. She also gave details of various events that had taken place including a swap shop – green event involving a number of interested groups and a safety day with the Community Action Group. Reference was also made to activities for children and to the martial arts group having received some funding. Work was being undertaken with the library and the Brownies to create a community garden outside the library. She further referred to a produce market, which was run once per month in conjunction with the Town Council. Ilminster Forum was also involved in a web-based market town benchmarking exercise where information was gathered and then analysed to see how the town was performing, including in comparison with others. The Ilminster web site was also being updated. She further mentioned that the Forum were looking at projects that could be undertaken under the label of the 'Big Society' and a new project involving a group of volunteers who could help keep Ilminster tidy, including the cleaning of signs, was to take place. In conclusion, Cllr. Goodall mentioned that there was to be further consultation in the new year to update the Community Plan and that the Forum were constantly looking for ways to access funding and to become more sustainable. During her presentation, she acknowledged the assistance of the various organisations the Forum worked with in progressing the various projects and activities.

The comments of a member who suggested that perhaps the Forum could look at holding a cycling event on the cycleway (Stop Line Way) between Ilminster and Chard were noted.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Goodall for her presentation and for the time and effort she put in to the Ilminster Forum, which was appreciated by the community.

**NOTED.**

*(Zoë Harris, Community Regeneration Officer – 01460 260423)  
(zoe.harris@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

## **68. Area West Committee – Forward Plan (Agenda item 8)**

Reference was made to the agenda report, which informed members of the proposed Area West Committee Forward Plan.

The Area Development Manager (West) referred to the presentation of the DVD on the work of the Community Justice Panel, which had been scheduled for the November meeting. The Committee agreed with the suggestion that the item be withdrawn from the Area West Forward Plan as it was now proposed to organise an event for all District Councillors to be held later this year.

Reference was made to the item regarding the operation of markets in Area West, which had been shown in the Forward Plan for consideration in December. Members asked that the item be submitted to the November meeting as had been scheduled previously.

A member referred to the public consultation that was taking place on the Draft Core Strategy and queried whether there would be any feedback to the Area Committees on the comments received once the consultation had been completed in December. The Area Development Manager commented that he was not aware of any proposals for an item to be taken forward to Area Committees although he thought some form of member workshop

would be held. He agreed to check how it was proposed to involve members once the current public consultation period had been completed.

Reference was made by a member to the need at some stage to consider the position with regard to the award of community grants in the future. The Area Development Manager commented that an item had been included in the Forward Plan for the November meeting to enable the Committee to discuss proposals for future Area Forums and he would see if there was any information that could be included in that report regarding the future of the Council's community grant scheme.

A member referred to the Council having adopted a motion in July 2008 to endorse the principles of the transition town movement to reduce the dependence on fuel oil and create more sustainable communities. The Committee noted the comments of the member who hoped that there was some action that could be taken to promote this initiative.

**RESOLVED:** that the Area West Committee Forward Plan as attached to the agenda be noted subject to the above comments being taken into account.

(Resolution passed without dissent).

*(Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West) – 01460 260426)*  
*(andrew.gillespie@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

## 69. Reports from Members on Outside Organisations (Agenda item 9)

Cllr. Geoff Clarke referred to Crewkerne Leisure Management (Aqua Centre) and reported on the organisation's trading year 2009/10. He reported that the throughput of customers was good although the drop out rate was higher than expected. The Board had therefore decided to reinstate the marketing group to see what more could be done to keep customers and to obtain more follow-up on those customers who had dropped out. He referred to a glossy flyer being distributed in villages and to the Board looking at a marketing partnership. He mentioned that the swimming lessons were popular and provided a good income. He also informed members of the concessions available for the over 60s. Reference was made to the building being 13 years old and to repairs subject of normal wear and tear being needed, which were normally not too costly but this year repairs to the roof were required. Crewkerne Town Council had helped with funding. He also mentioned that the swimming pools would be closed for a period in December for essential maintenance, which had been budgeted for, but the fitness centre would remain open. He indicated that the Board were optimistic for the future despite the economic climate and commented that the centre was providing services at no cost to the public through a sound business plan.

Cllr. Angie Singleton referred to the Crewkerne Heritage Centre and commented that they were not in such a fortunate position as the Aqua Centre as they did not have the same capacity to obtain income through the door. She indicated that the centre was realistic about the reduction in grants and were addressing that issue. She also referred to the huge support that the centre received from the Friends of the Museum and indicated that the funding that they raised may have to go towards running costs rather than to features. She mentioned that the Friends of the Museum had over 200 members and that a '100 club' had been organised and regular coffee mornings were held. She referred to being reasonably secure in the knowledge that the Heritage Centre would not fail but it was a hard task.

Cllr. Kim Turner referred to the Meeting House, Ilminster and mentioned that there was now a new chairman and committee members. She also referred to the rent, gas and electricity costs being a large outlay and to the income from the café having gone down.

Although there were problems, she referred to the new committee being ambitious and having come up with some good ideas and felt that it was important for the District Council representatives to be involved.

NOTED.

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**70. Feedback on Planning Applications referred to the Regulation Committee (Agenda item 10)**

There was no feedback to report as there were no planning applications that had been referred recently by the Committee to the Regulation Committee.

NOTED.

*(David Norris, Development Manager – 01935 462382)*  
*(david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

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**71. Planning Appeals (Agenda item 11)**

The Committee noted the details contained in the agenda report, which informed members of planning appeals lodged, dismissed and allowed.

NOTED.

*(David Norris, Development Manager – 01935 462382)*  
*(david.norris@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

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**72. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda item 12)**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at the Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard on Wednesday, 17th November 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

NOTED.

*(Andrew Blackburn, Committee Administrator – 01460 260441)*  
*(andrew.blackburn@southsomerset.gov.uk)*

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Chairman